against the total storage capacity of 27.92 million tonnes available with it, Food Corporation of India was holding stocks of 19.36 million tonnes of foodgrains. The sanctioned strength is determind not only on the basis of storage capacity, but also other factors such as stocks actually held, workload etc.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A major portion of the vacancies is at the entry level category III & IV posts. These have not been filled up on account of ban on direct recruitment.

(d) No, Sir. There are only 22 officers at present on deputation to the Corporation.

(e) The officers are taken by the Corporation on deputation from Government Departments to man specified posts in exigencies of work relating to these posts.

(f) The number of deputationists is negligible as compared to the total strength of employees & officers in the Corporation and the appointment of deputationists in the Corporation is need based.

New Pension Scheme for Labourers

107. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently launched any new pension scheme for the benefits of labour employees in the country;

(b) if so, what are the full details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to implement the aforesaid pension scheme in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) The Government has launched a new Pension Scheme for the EPF subscribers w.e.f. 16th Nov. 1995. The scheme inter-alia provides for payment of monthly pension in the contingencies of superannuation, retirement, death etc. Minimum 10 years' contributory service is necessary for becoming entitled to pension. The amount of pension will be worked out on the basis of average pensionable salary of the last 12 months. The Scheme is being administered by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation. The Government has asked the EPF authorities to ensure disbursement of pension to all the eligible employees at the earliest.

Recognition of Recruiting Agency

108. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recruiting agency calling itself the Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council has been formally recognised by the Ministry of Commerce and is treated at par with other Export Promotion Councils;

(b) if not, whether Government will ensure that this agency changes its name; and

(c) whether Government propose to enquire into the nature of activities, this particular agency is currently engaged in?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Information has been received that such an organisation has been registered in Maharashtra under the provisions of the Company's Act. Government is examining the provisions of law and the steps that could be taken to require the organisation to amend its name so that it does not give the impression that it is an Export Promotion Council.

Recovery of ESI and Provident Fund Dues From Defaulting Employers

109. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to recover the ESI and

provident fund dues from the defaulting employers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any legal provision has been introduced for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (D) in both the employees State Insurance Act, 1948 and the Employees Provident Funds & Misc. Provisions Act, 1952, there are already in-built provisions for determination and recovery of the ESI/EPF dues. In order to prevent/tackle the problem of default, provisions have also been made for levy of damages and interest, attachement/sale of property of the defaulter, launching of criminal proceedings under section 406/409 of IPC etc. As provided under the respective Acts, the ESI & EPF authorities are already taking necessary action to recover the dues outstanding against the defaulting establishments.

Buffer Stock in FCI

110. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corportion of India is in a comfortable position in maintaining its buffer stock of foodgrains;

(b) wheher the procurment of food grain is also satisfactory;

(c) if so, whether FCI has taken steps to ensure proper storage facilities and also utilise the surplus stock; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total procurement of wheat and rice in the Central pool during the last 3 years has been as under:—

Marketing Season	Wheat	rice
	(in lakh tonnes)	
1993-94	128.35	136.51
1994-95	118.61	132.89
1995-96 (upto 20.11.95)	123.18	37.61

The shortfall in procurement of rice during 1995-96 so far is attributed to reduction in production due to floods in some parts of Punjab, Haryana and Andhra pradesh and commencement of season from 1.10.95 in Punjab and Haryana instead of 1.9.95 last year.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. At macro level the existing storage capacity is adequate to store the available stocks. however, difficulties do arise in the heavy procurement areas. In order to take a care of any defficiency at local levels the field officers of FCI have been delegated with powers for hiring additional storage capacity from private parties/Govt. agencies like CWC, SWC, State Govt. etc. Further, as a long term strategy, a number of steps like expediting ongoing construction of godown, enhancing of FCI's CAP capacity, hiring of abandoned air strips for creating large open storage complexes etc. are being taken. The FCI has also undertaken construction of additional storage capacity at strategic locations. During the 8th Five year Plan (1992-97) FCI has been given a target of constructing an additional capacity of 6 lakh tonnes out of which it has already constructed 3.24 lakh tonnes so far.

Apart from regular releases for PDS, the FCI is selling wheat and rice in the open market at price below FCI's economic cost. Besides, wheat and/or rice is/are being alloted at subsidised rates for various welfare schemes like Mid-day Meals Scheme, Employment